eliminating racism empowering women ywca

Position/Title: **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE/SEXUAL ASSAULT COUNSELOR**
Location: YWCA Northeastern Massachusetts Haverhill Site
107 Winter Street, Haverhill, MA 01830
Schedule: Monday - Friday
Compensation: Based on experience and Agency guidelines

POSITION SUMMARY

The Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Counselor will function as an essential member of the women's services team, providing frontline responses to survivors of domestic violence/sexual assault. Direct services include but are not limited to; crisis intervention, safety planning, advocacy, short and in some instances long-term counseling, assist with a women's support group, referrals, and in some instances accompaniment. Implements initiatives designed to promote the organization and its services to the community. Develops relationships with community leaders and serves as the organization's liaison with various constituents. The Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Counselor will provide domestic violence/sexual assault/healthy relationship education in schools and at community programs.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

- Work with clients by phone, in individual meetings, support group settings and/or in court.
- Provide information, high risk screening, support, advocacy, and accompaniment to victims of domestic violence.
- Assist clients in safety planning, identifying options, and problem solving.
- Assist clients in identifying needs and offering options or referrals for meeting those needs.
- Implements initiatives designed to promote the organization and its services to the community.
- Provide community outreach and training to increase awareness and to improve services to victims.
- Attend community partner meetings as assigned to address issues of access to service for domestic violence victims.
- Provide community education as assigned by supervisor.
- Provide information about restraining orders and if needed, back-up assistance with filing restraining orders at the Haverhill District Court.
- Provide individual supportive counseling to ongoing individual clients to ensure safety and stability, and group work for those seeking that service.
- Provide client-specific advocacy to meet identified client needs, such as contact with other service providers, law enforcement, and others.
- Keep supervisor informed of high-risk situations when working with clients.
- Consult with supervisor about client concerns, workload management, professional development, and other areas.
- Participate in Crisis Line back-up rotation as assigned.
- Attend trainings and continuing education activities as assigned.
- Attend and actively participate in staff meetings and clinical supervision.
- Adhere to agency policies and work rules, including but not limited to confidentiality and code of ethics. Maintain professional boundaries with agency clients.
- Other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS

- DPH-certified as domestic violence advocate/rape crisis counselor or have the willingness to be so trained.
- A commitment to the YWCA Mission and the goals of this product.
- Demonstrated ability and skill in conflict negotiation and resolution.
- A strong desire to help others; patience, understanding and excellent communication skills.
- A strong sense of responsibility, self-direction, and the ability to manage time effectively.

REQUIREMENTS

- Bachelor's Degree in a human services field, with two years in domestic violence victim services; or an Associate's Degree, with a minimum of three years' experience in the field of domestic violence.
- Must be committed to the program's mission of social justice and non-violence.

PHYSICAL/MENTAL DEMANDS

- Work requires lifting, sitting, standing, stooping, bending, walking, and climbing
- Work is varied in nature and require the ability to make clear and concise presentations, to communicate in person and on the telephone and to respond to crisis situations in an appropriate manner.